term loan assistance will be extended by SIDBI to State Small Industries Development Corporations, State Infrastructure Development Corporations and other such corporations or authorities engaged in developing industrial areas exclusively for the SSI sector. Preference under the scheme will be given to those projects which are located in rural and semiurban areas or centrally notified backward districts

(c) All the States and Union Territories are eligible for assistance under this scheme, which has been introduced by SIDBI only on the 4th of December, 1990. Sanctions are yet to be accorded under this scheme.

Winding up of Export Inspection Agency

*114. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA'. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to wind up the Export Inspection Agency, and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for taking such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Possibility of closure of small foundry units due to hike in import duty on pig iron

*115 SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that small foundry units are on the verge of closure because of the increase in import duty on pig iron and curtailment of its domestic production by Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) whether any representation has been received by Government for reduction in customs duty on imported pig iron, if so, what action have been taken thereon, and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to help these small foundry units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) Auxiliary import duty on pig iron was increased only w.e.f. 15th December, 1990, along with several other items, and thus closure of foundry units on this account does not arise.

Production of pig iron by SAIL in 1990-91, so far, has decreased. However, total production of pig iron in the country upto November, 1990 has increased by 4.8 per cent over the corresponsing period of last year.

(b) and (c) In response to several representations received from Associations of foundry units and State Governments for reduction in custom duty on imported pig iron, the Government had reduced the import duty on pig iron from 45 per cent *ad valorem* to 20 per cent *ad valorem* with effect from 20th September, 1990 for import of 2 lakh tonnes of foundry grade pig iron by MMTC.

Production of Pig Iron is delicensed. Government is encouraging pig iron production in the secondary sector.

Use of electronic voting machine and issue of identity cards to voters

*116 SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Chief Election Commissioner, Mrs Rama Devi held meeting with the Chief Electoral Officers of all the States and Union Territories;